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Figures for Londoners.

1.—LONDON'S POVERTY.

LONDON now contains over 4,300,000 persons. Three hundred thousand (300,000) of these earn less than 18s. per week per family, and live in a state of chronic want.

One in every nine of the whole population will die in the workhouse: one in every eleven is a pauper this year.

Over forty-three thousand (43,000) children in the Board Schools alone go to school without sufficient food.

Over thirty thousand persons have no home but the fourpenny "doss-house" or the casual ward.

2.—LONDON'S RENTAL.

The annual rental of London is at least £37,000,000, The tenant pays, in addition, over £7,500,000 in Rates. besides the National Taxes.

Of the rental, about £15,000,000 is paid each year for mere permission to occupy London's 119-square miles of hill and swamp, without any payment for the use of the buildings on them. How much was this land worth before London grew there?

3.—LONDON'S UNEARNED INCREMENT.

The saleable value of the ground on which London stands increases year by year. During the last twenty years, it has, on an average, grown every year by about £4,500,000, after deducting the value of any new buildings or alterations. This is the annual "New Year's Gift," in addition to the annual rental, which we make to those persons who do us the favor to "own" London for us.

4.—LONDON'S WATER TAX.

It costs under £700,000 a year to supply London with water; but London has to pay more than £1,700,000

a year for the water so supplied. The surplus serves to pay, on an average, over seven per cent. on the nominal capital of the eight water companies (some shareholders receive over twelve per cent.).

As the rental value of London rises our water tax goes up, but there is a steady decrease in the average amount of water supplied. The County Council could give us an improved supply at the cost of less than half our present tribute.

5.—LONDON'S GAS BILL.

London's annual gas supply costs less than £3,000,000, but in order to earn an average of twelve per cent. for the Shareholders of the three gas companies, London is charged over £4,700,000 for it. One hundred and seventy different towns in England already own their own gas works, and save the cost of shareholders.

6.—LONDON'S TRAMWAYS.

Londoners pay in tram fares £900,000 a year, but it only costs £700,000 to work the trams. The balance provides an average dividend of nearly 6 per cent. to the shareholders. Thirty-one towns own their own trams, and one (Huddersfield) works them without any contractor. This tramway is the only one where the "Eight Hours Day" is yet in force. Why should not London copy Huddersfield?

7.—LONDON'S HOSPITALS.

Over 7,000 Londoners die each year in London's hospitals; yet Londoners have no voice in the management of the 238 separate competing hospitals and other medical charities, owning over £4,000,000 of public property. No public superintendence controls their jobbery; no public audit checks their waste.

8.—THE CITY GUILDS.

Seventy-four "City Companies," with about 7,500 "liverymen," are controlling a property clearly belonging to the people of London, worth at least fifteen millions

sterling, with an income of at least £750,000 a year. Two-thirds of this is devoted to various charitable purposes, but at least a quarter of a million sterling annually is being wasted, jobbed and misappropriated by the City Companies.

9.—LONDON'S POLICE.

London's 15,000 police cost over £1,700,000 annually, for which Londoners have to pay a ninepenny rate. Yet Londoners are not consulted as to how the money should be spent, and have no control whatsoever over the force which they maintain. Every provincial city and county has this power, denied to London alone.

Remember Trafalgar Square !

10.—LONDON'S FINANCIAL BUDGET.

Over ten millions sterling are annually collected and spent by London's public authorities, and yet we pay, in addition, ten millions more every year to those who "own" our gas works, water works, tramways and docks, for what costs them annually only six millions and a half.

If London, like the great provincial cities, itself owned these public services (after paying the shareholders the full cost of the undertakings); it might save at least £1,500,000 every year—enough to cover half the expenditure on the relief of London's poor.

The mere annual "unearned increment" of London would, if appropriated to public purposes, enable the whole of London's million poor to be decently housed, with only the delay necessary for the building operations; and the net annual income from only "fair rents" on this public property would more than suffice to educate all London's children free of charge.

One week's income of the owners of London's ground values would provide a free dinner every day in the year for the 43,000 children now at school without sufficient food.

A fuller statement of these facts, with precise references to official statistics proving them, and many others relating to London's size, growth, poverty, taxation, administration, finance, &c., will be found in

"FACTS FOR LONDONERS"

Fabian Tract No. 8. Price 6d., 4s. 6d. per dozen, 32s. per 100. Pp. 55.

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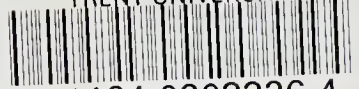
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